

CLAIMS

1. The use, in a web material comprising cellulosic fibres, of synthetic fibres for reducing variations in wet expansion in the cross direction of the web material.
- 5 2. The use according to claim 1, in which the synthetic fibres are selected from polyamide, polyester and polyolefin fibres.
- 10 3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, in which the cellulosic web includes abaca and/or other vegetable fibres.
- 15 4. The use according to claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the cellulosic web includes woodpulp fibres in an amount of up to 50% by weight of the total of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.
- 20 5. The use according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which the content of synthetic fibres in the web material is from 0.5 to 20% by weight of the total of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.
- 25 6. The use according to claim 5, in which the said content of synthetic fibres is from 3 to 9% by weight.
7. The use, according to any of claims 1 to 6, in which the web material is wet-laid from a fibrous mixture containing cellulosic fibres and the synthetic fibres.
8. The use, according to any of claims 1 to 7, in which the web material is casing paper and is bonded with regenerated cellulose or with a resin binder or mixture of resin binders.
- 30 9. The use, according to claim 8, in which the bonded casing paper is impregnated with viscose from which cellulose is thereafter regenerated to form a casing material for the packaging of sausage or other meat product or other food products.

10. The use according to any of claims 1 to 9, in which drying of the said web material and/or of the bonded casing paper is effected by means of a plurality of heated cylinders.
11. A casing paper, suitable for the preparation of casing material for the packaging of 5 sausage or other meat product or other food products, which casing paper contains a web material comprising cellulosic fibres and synthetic fibres, the web material being bonded with regenerated cellulose or with a binder resin or mixture of resin binders, wherein the synthetic fibres are selected from (i) fibres made of an organic polymer selected from polyesters, polyamides, polyolefins and copolymers thereof, (ii) fibres made of a mixture 10 of such organic polymers and (iii) mixtures of fibres (i) and/or (ii).
12. A casing paper according to claim 11, in which the synthetic fibres are selected from polyamide, polyester and polyolefin fibres.
- 15 13. A casing paper according to claim 11 or 12, in which the cellulosic web includes abaca and/or other vegetable fibres.
14. A casing paper according to claim 11, 12 or 13, in which the cellulosic web includes woodpulp fibres in an amount of up to 50% by weight of the total of cellulosic 20 and synthetic fibres.
15. A casing paper according to any of claims 11 to 14, in which the content of synthetic fibres in the web material is from 0.5 to 20% by weight of the total of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.
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16. A casing paper according to claim 15, in which the said content of synthetic fibres is from 3 to 9% by weight.
17. A process for preparing casing paper which comprises forming a web material 30 containing cellulose fibres and synthetic fibres, and impregnating the web material with a resin binder, or mixture of resin binders, or with viscose, wherein the synthetic fibres are selected from (i) fibres made of an organic polymer selected from polyesters, polyamides,

polyolefins and copolymers thereof, (ii) fibres made of a mixture of such organic polymers and (iii) mixtures of fibres (i) and/or (ii).

5 18. A process according to claim 17, in which the web material is formed by a wet-laying method.

19. A process according to claim 17 or 18, which is directed to the preparation of a casing paper according to any of claims 12 to 16.

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20. A process according to claim 17, 18 or 19, in which drying of the web material and/or of the casing paper is effected by means of a plurality of heated cylinders.

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21. A casing material for the packaging of sausage or other meat product or other food products, which comprises material, e.g. in the form of a sheet or tube, comprising regenerated cellulose in which there is embedded a casing paper according to any of claims 11 to 16 or a casing paper prepared by a process according to any of claims 17 to 20.

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